

## Notification of Serious Incidents Review

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### **What is this report about?**

**Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions**

- An issue was brought to the attention of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board Chair which subsequently prompted a discussion between the Chair and the Chair of the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP), Jasvinder Sanghera CBE. Linked to this, the Children and Families Scrutiny Board Chair was advised of some instances where differing views were evident within the partnership in relation to whether or not to categorise a case as a notifiable Serious Incident.
- The Director of Children and Families has advised the Chair that in light of these matters a local review of notification arrangements commenced in December 2021 and is due to report to the Partnership by the end of March.
- In discussions with Senior Officers and Members it has been acknowledged that the current review of notification arrangements, and the background to it, should reasonably have been brought to the attention of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board at an earlier stage.
- In light of the above the Scrutiny Board Chair has invited the Director of Children and Families, the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership Chair and the Executive Member to today's meeting to update the Board on these matters and provide further contextual information.
- The legal adviser to the Safeguarding Partnership Board will also be in attendance to advise the board on the legal framework within which Notification arrangements are managed.

### **Recommendations**

Members are requested to

- i. consider the information presented during the meeting and request a further in-depth update once the review work has concluded, and,
- ii. determine what further scrutiny activity is required in relation to this matter.

### **Why is the proposal being put forward?**

1. Given the nature of the issues brought to the attention of the Chair, the Chair considers that the matter requires urgent consideration by the Scrutiny Board so has been brought as a late item and urgent matter of business.

### **What impact will this proposal have?**

**Wards affected: All**

Have ward members been consulted?       Yes       No

2. The information presented to the Scrutiny Board will assist Members in determining what further scrutiny work is warranted.

### **What consultation and engagement has taken place?**

3. The Director of Children and Families, Chair of the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) and the Executive Member for Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships will also be attending today's meeting to contribute to the discussion and address any questions from Board Members.

### **What are the resource implications?**

4. This report has no specific resource implications.

### **What are the legal implications?**

5. The Wood Review of 2016, led to an amendment of The Children's Act 2004, resulting in the removal of the statutory requirement of local authorities to have a Local Safeguarding Children Board and placed the responsibility for safeguarding equally with local authorities namely children and family services, police and health (Clinical Commissioning Groups).
6. The Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017), the associated regulations and statutory guidance, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' set out the duties placed on the three agencies to work in partnership and to define the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. It also places a duty on other partner agencies to co-operate with the new arrangements albeit the local authority is designated as the accountable body for the Notification arrangements.
7. Given the legal restrictions it will not be appropriate for there to be any discussion of individual cases which fall within the notification arrangements.
8. Legal advice will be provided as necessary during the Board's deliberations.

### **What are the key risks and how are they being managed?**

9. Details of associated risk management implications will be reflected as part of the briefings presented during today's meeting.

## **Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?**

10. One of the eleven priorities set out with the Leeds Children and Young People's Plan is ensuring that the most vulnerable are protected.

### **Appendices**

11. None.

### **Background papers**

12. None.